



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

more; moreover, she holds every one strictly accountable for every portion of nervous energy which he or she may squander, therefore, it behooves us to build our causeway with exceeding care, otherwise we will leave a chasm which will engulf posterity.

The baneful effects resulting from female suffrage will not be seen to-morrow, or next week, or week after next, or next month, or next year, or a hundred years hence, perhaps. It is not a question of our day and generation; it is a matter of involving posterity. The simple right to vote carries with it no immediate danger, the danger comes afterward; probably many years after the establishment of female suffrage, when woman, owing to her increased degeneration, gives free rein to her atavistic tendencies, and hurries ever backward toward the savage state of her barbarian ancestors. I see, in the establishment of equal rights, the first step toward that abyss of immoral horrors so repugnant to our cultivated ethical tastes—the matriarchate. Sunk as low as this, civilized man will sink still lower—to the communal *Kachims* of the Aleutian Islanders.

EDITOR'S TABLE.

—FOR reasons not fully set forth, a considerable number of persons at one time adopted the opinion that the coëducation of the sexes possesses advantages over their separate education, and accordingly that system has been introduced into numerous schools of various grades. Consideration of certain facts of nature would, it might be supposed, have suggested that there might be some objections, but it is not the habit of a large class of persons to consider natural facts in the matter of sex. Now that the system has been in operation for many years, it is possible to see more clearly than before, whether the suspicions of the opponents of the system were well-founded or not. We make no account of the opposition of persons who think a college or university education unnecessary for women. Among the best educated men, such a position probably has few supporters.

Experience shows that in classes composed of both sexes, order is more easily maintained ; boys are less disorderly and girls are less silly. The natural instinct for the respect of the other sex works wonders in this, as in other relations of life. Hence many teachers and professors think highly of coëducation. If we consider the interests of the students rather than those of the teachers, however, a different conclusion is indicated. It is well-known that the rate of growth in its later years is widely different in the sexes ; the female becoming mature several years earlier than the male. This fact is the simple explanation of the natural antagonism which exists between the sexes of identical age during their "teens." Neither finds its ideal in the other sex of its age, the young woman especially and naturally finding it in older men who are as mature as herself. In mixed classes she will often excel the boys and take the prizes, a consequence not only of her maturity, but also of her greater sensitiveness to the penalties of failure. That women have, of later years, so often taken leading positions in competitive examinations is not necessarily an evidence of a corresponding superiority of intellectual endowment, but is often the natural result of the inequality of development between herself and her male competitors. We would, in fact, look for such a result as a necessary consequence of the conditions.

The effect of this state of affairs is bad on both sexes. It leads to mistaken conclusions as to the relative capacities of the two, which may lead to disastrous results in after life. It is calculated to produce in a considerable class of boys a distaste for study, and a preference in after years for uneducated women. To this extent it retards rather than aids human progress. It is a fact that, in a number of coëducational schools, the girls largely outnumber the boys, since the latter fail to become interested in their studies, and prefer to leave school and go into business. Whether it induces in girls a contempt for the intellectual furniture of the opposite sex we are not in a position to say, but it has done a great deal towards confirming certain doctrinaires in their *a priori* belief in the intellectual equality of the sexes.

It is alleged that there are moral reasons why coëducation is better than separate education, and this opinion is well-founded so far as it relates to the mutual benefits of association. But this association need not necessarily be in classes. A model institution would be one in which the classes should be separate, but association at other times easy. Such association could be obtained at meals and on other stated occasions, so as to represent as nearly as possible the family relation.

In universities, the graduate courses should be open equally to both sexes, since those who seek them are mature and stand on an equal footing.

—EXPERIENCE of the effects of electrical currents on the human body does not sustain the New York method of executing criminals by electric shocks as either effective or humane. We have, so far, failed to find an electrician who can describe the course of an electric current after it enters the human body. Experience has abundantly shown that some men may tolerate currents of much higher voltage than others, so that there is no fixed standard of fatal efficiency. It is not certain that persons apparently killed by such currents are really dead, for there are cases of resuscitation from shocks of a strength which the New York executioners suppose to be fatal. The offer of experts to resuscitate the victims of the electric chair have been declined by the New York authorities. The testimony of some persons who have been resuscitated from apparent death by electricity, is that while all their motor functions were suspended, their consciousness was active. There may then be some truth in the assertion that the real execution under the New York law takes place at the autopsy. We cannot but regard the enterprise of the authors of this law as premature, and as involving a trifling with unknown conditions, which is barbarous. The law should be repealed. As a substitute for this and all other forms of execution, the guillotine has everything in its favor.

OUR hopes of the benefits to science to be derived from the Field Museum of Chicago have not been realized. Nearly all of the scientific men who originally obtained positions there, have left it with expressions of dissatisfaction. This was to have been expected as a consequence of the organization which Mr. Field permitted. The most active member of the management was a successful lumber merchant, and the appointee as director was of an equally impossible stamp. Americans sometimes wonder why European Museums of Natural History are so much superior to our own. The answer is that in Europe competent scientific men manage them; in America they do not, with the sole exception of a museum which is connected with a university (Harvard), and one in New York where exceptional sagacity holds the reins. Chicago begins, in this matter, at the bottom of the ladder, and we will live in hopes. Perhaps Mr. Field himself will some day come to the rescue, and insist that the director of the Museum shall be a scientific man of proved ability, and that the only function of the

trustees shall be to see that the investments are good, and that the expenses shall not exceed the income.

THE LAST volume of the reports of the Challenger Expedition has been published, and English biologists are reviewing the work. A late number of our esteemed contemporary "Natural Science," consists mainly of a symposium on the results obtained, and the editors congratulate their countrymen on the successful conduct and completion of the enterprise. We join in their congratulations; for Englishmen may well be proud of their work; and Carpenter as its projector, and Moseley and Murray as its managers, will ever be held in esteem by naturalists the world over. By the way our contemporary in another number shows that there is eruptive matter in some of its editorial substrata. It comes to the surface in some strong language anent of a short communication by Dr. Patton to the NATURALIST. Perhaps the irate editor is not familiar with all the circumstances of the case. Neither are we.

RECENT LITERATURE.

From the Greeks to Darwin.¹—In a volume of 260 pages Professor Osborn presents the salient points in the history of the growth of the evolution idea in the European mind. Beginning with the Greek philosophers, the author discusses their conceptions and gives a résumé of the legacy of the Greeks to later evolution. Then follows an account of the contributions of the theologians of the Middle Ages, and of the natural philosophers from Bacon to Schelling. Due credit is given both to the speculative evolutionists, of whom Oken is a type, and to the great naturalists of the eighteenth century who laid the real foundations of the modern evolution idea. Several pages are

¹ From the Greeks to Darwin. An Outline of the Development of the Evolution Idea. By Henry Fairfield Osborn. New York, 1894. Macmillan and Co.